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rat flea of California) were placed in the cage with the rat. This white rat died on the fifth day, and at autopsy presented the usual lesions of acute plague. After the death of the rat 50 of the fleas were removed from the body and placed in a clean cage with a healthy ground squirrel. This squirrel died on the tenth day and at autopsy presented the usual lesions of plague.

These experiments show how readily plague might be carried from rats to squirrels and from squirrels to rats by means of fleas.

Until further experimental work has been done, it would be unwise to assume that the infection is transmitted in nature in this manner.

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT LEEDS, ENGLAND.

The following was received from Consul Chase through the Department of State, under date of April 30:

A medical inspection of a number of the school children of Leeds has just been made, the first under an order of the Government, and a summary of the report is published.

There are 113 elementary schools with 272 departments and 79,441 children enrolled, the entrance age being 5 years. Of this number, 16,660 (8,521 boys and 8,139 girls) have been examined by the medical authorities.

For the purpose of record the schools were divided into 5 classes which, with the number examined in each class, are as follows: Poor 4,065, ordinary 7,543, better class 2,817, suburban 1,677. The report gives 9,261 or 55.6 per cent with defective teeth or dental caries; 1,548 or 9.3 per cent as cases of subnormal nutrition; 1,570 or 10.5 per cent with enlarged tonsils or adenoids; 262 or 1.3 per cent with ear diseases; 956 or 5.7 per cent have rickets. One per cent of those examined have nervous diseases and one-tenth of 1 per cent were pronounced mentally defective, but the explanation of this low rate is that the city has 4 special schools for the education of the mentally defective children not included in the inspection. Two thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, or 17.5 per cent, are reported as "dirty or verminous," and assuming the same ratio of all enrolled, this would amount to almost 13,000 children. After notice to parents this condition was remedied in all but 44 children, who have been directed excluded, action to be taken against their parents. Girls are affected in this way in the proportion of 4 to 1 as to boys. Ringworm is given as the cause of the absence of 200 per week, and 0.5 per cent are excluded on that account. Three hundred and four cases of tuberculosis were noted, 175 in boys and 129 in girls.

Of the total number of scholars, 8,657 have been under medical treatment during the past year, and the returns of the last six months of the year show an average of 1,895 children absent daily on account of sickness.

In all, 16,305 notices were issued to parents as to various diseases in their children, and 53 per cent of those reported seem to have been treated.

The regulations provide for 4 examinations of each scholar, and a record card of each to be kept and ultimately filed in the education

office. The examinations of which records are to be kept are to be made at the ages of 5, 7, and 10 years, and upon leaving school at 14 or 16 years.

The most striking thing in the report is the showing that the weights and heights of the Leeds children are below the average for England and Wales. Boys of 12 years weigh, on an average, 70.7 pounds, and girls 72 pounds, as against the average of 76.7 pounds in boys and 76.4 pounds in girls. Children of the same age average in height, boys 54.5 inches, girls 54.6 inches as against 54.9 inches for boys and 55.6 inches for girls for the whole country.

In the report the officer says: "It is evident that medical inspection has disclosed an enormous number of defects which would otherwise have been entirely overlooked. It has been the means of giving the parents most valuable information, whether they act upon it or not. Medical inspection is as yet in its infancy, and not until every child has been examined and its medical history made known and its defects removed or ameliorated can we expect to reap the full benefit in the improvement of the coming generation."